

Nevada Credit System Transaction Overview

SEC Workshop – December 3, 2014

Wed. & Thurs. Goal & Objectives

Goal: Adopt initial version of the Conservation Credit System Manual and HQT

Wednesday (12/3) Objectives

- Address gaps of understanding related to operational steps and proposed policy and technical elements
- 2) Identify proposed policies to discuss possible changes on Thursday

Thursday (12/4) Objectives

1) Define changes required for SEC to be comfortable adopting initial versions of the Manual and HQT



Roles

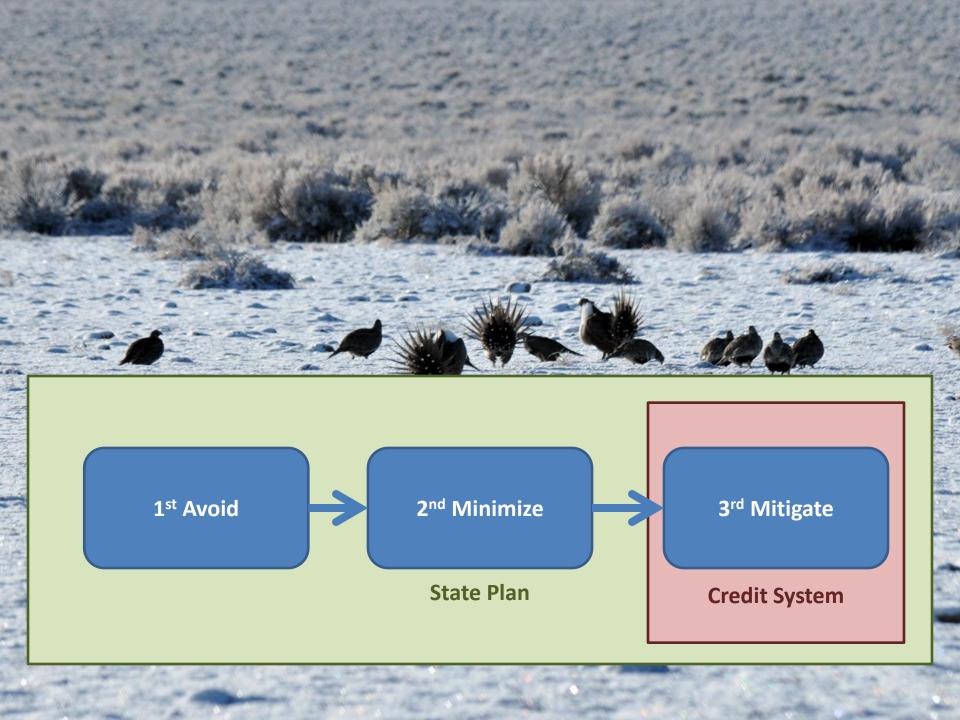
Participants:

- SEC
- SETT, State and Federal Agency staff, and other interested stakeholders

Facilitator: Jeremy

Technical Presenters/Note Takers: Eoin & Erik





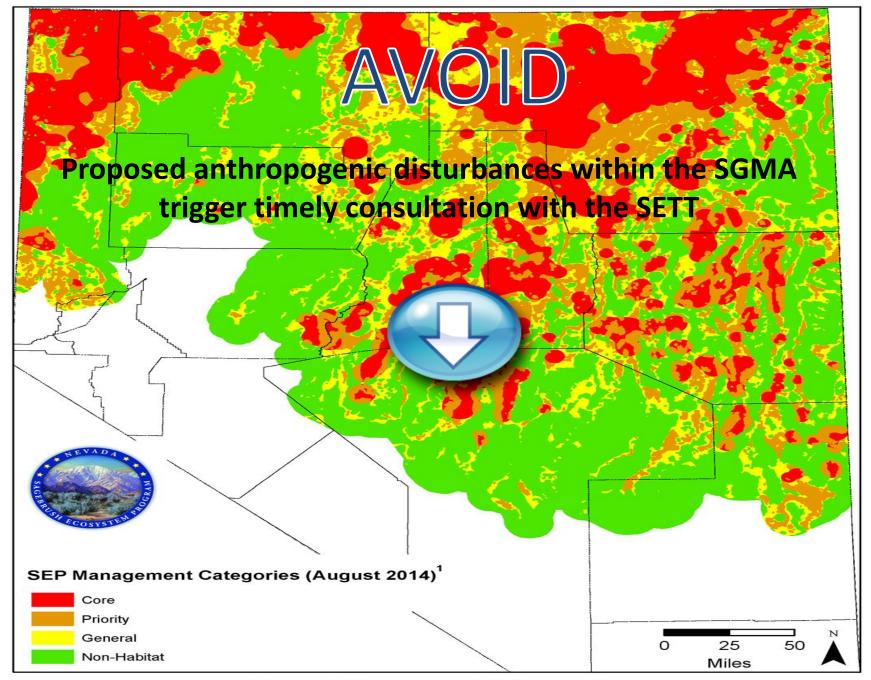


Figure 4. Management Category Map

Table 3-1. The "Avoid Process" for Proposed Anthropogenic Disturbances within the SGMA

Anthropogenic disturbances should be avoided in habitat within the SGMA. If project proponents wish to demonstrate that a disturbance cannot be avoided, exemptions will be granted if the criteria listed in the table can be met for the applicable management category.

	exemptions will be grund	ed if the criteria listed in the table can be m	ict for the applicable management categ	,оту.
Management Category	Core ("best of the best")	Priority	General	Non-habitat
Required Avoid Criteria	be reasonably accomplished elsewhere the purpose and need of the project could not be accomplished in an alternative location; Demonstrate that the individual and cumulative impacts of the project would not result in habitat fragmentation or other impacts that would cause sage-grouse populations to decline through consultation with the SETT; Demonstrate that sage-grouse population trends within the PMU are stable or increasing over a ten-year rolling average; Demonstrate that project infrastructure will be co-located with existing disturbances to the greatest extent possible; Develop Site Specific Consultation Based Design Features to minimize	 Demonstrate that the project cannot be reasonably accomplished elsewhere – the purpose and need of the project could not be accomplished in an alternative location; Demonstrate that project infrastructure will be co-located with existing disturbances to the greatest extent possible. If co-location is not possible, siting should reduce individual and cumulative impact to sage-grouse and their habitat; Demonstrate that the project should not result in unnecessary and undue habitat fragmentation that may cause declines in sage-grouse populations within the PMU through consultation with the SETT; Develop Site Specific Consultation Based Design Features to minimize impacts through consultation with the SETT; and Mitigate for unavoidable impacts through compensatory mitigation via the Conservation Credit System. 	be reasonably accomplished elsewhere - the purpose and need of the project could not be accomplished in an alternative location; • Demonstrate that project infrastructure will be co-located with existing disturbances to the greatest extent possible; • Develop Site Specific Consultation Based Design Features to minimize impacts through consultation with the SETT; and • Mitigate for unavoidable impacts through compensatory mitigation via the Conservation Credit System.	

SETT will seek to relocate disturbances (direct and indirect) outside sage-grouse habitats. If some or all cannot be relocated then:

MINIMIZE

Impacts will be minimized by modifying proposed actions or developing permit conditions to include measures that lessen the adverse effect to sagegrouse and their habitats.



Site Specific Consultation Based Design Features (Appendix A)

- Reduce disturbance footprint
 - Seasonal use limitations
- Co-location with existing disturbances
 Residual adverse effects will require mitigation



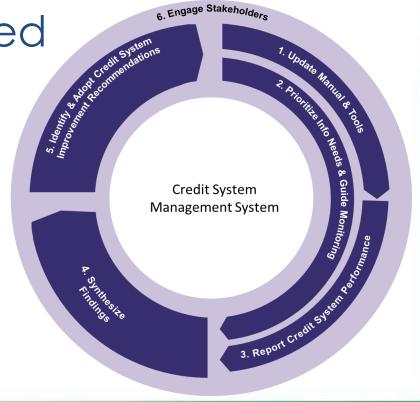
Adaptive Management

 Systematic process and decision making with triggers

Science Committee & other

stakeholders engaged

Annual (or shorter)





EXAMPLE TRANSACTION OVERVIEW



Operational Steps

Credit Generation on pages 55-63 of the Manual

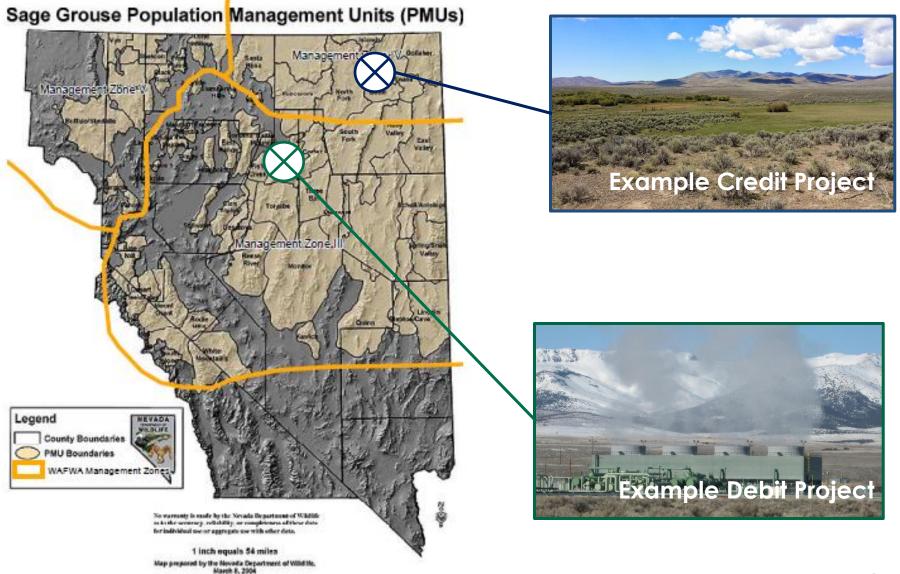
Credit Acquisition on pages 64-68 of the Manual



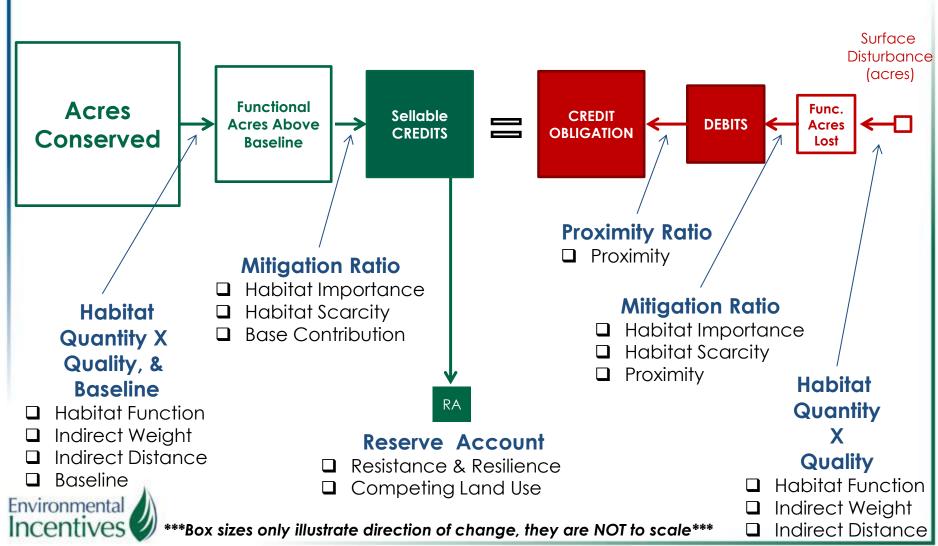
- Policy and technical requirements in Section 2 of the Manual
- Habitat quantification guidance and calculation using User's Guide and Calculator



Example Projects



Example Transaction



EXAMPLE TRANSACTION



Example Transaction Sequence

#1 Credit Generation

#2 Credit Acquisition





Credit Project Overview

- Project consists of stewardship of 3,460 acres with enhancement of approximately 60 acres of LBR habitat
- Committed to maintaining performance standard for 30 years





Select & Validate Site

Implement & Calculate Credit

Verify Conditions

Register & Issue

Track & Transfer

- Determine if site is eligible to participate in the Credit System
- Submit project Validation Checklist
- Receive project Notice of Validation



Validation Checklist Eligibility Requirements

- ✓ Service Area
- ✓ Ownership & Stewardship
- ✓ Additionality
- ✓ No Imminent Threat





Select & Validate Site Implement & Calculate Credit

Verify Conditions

Register & Issue

Track & Transfer

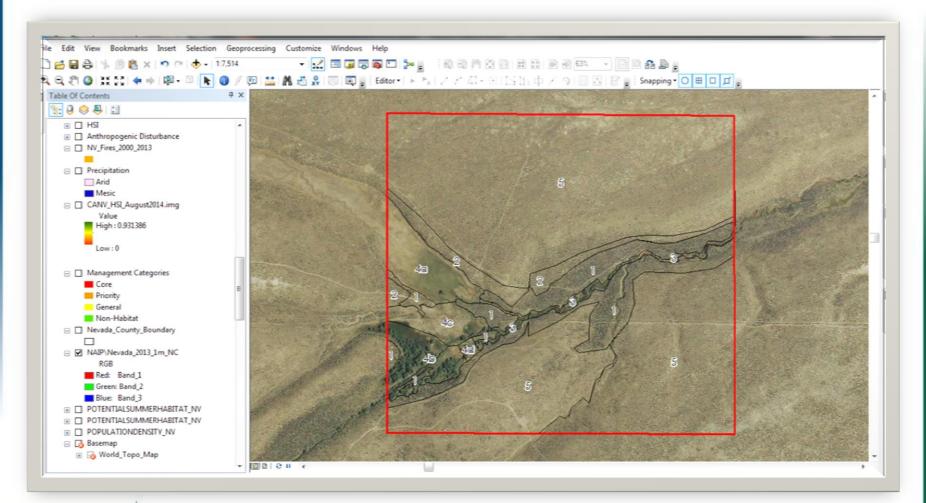
- Calculate estimated credits
- Develop Management Plan & Credit Release Schedule
- Secure financial assurances
- Submit documentation to Administrator
- Establish Verification Contract
- Sign Participant Contract
- Implement project



1

Conduct Pre-Field Visit Desktop Analysis

- Digitize the project area & map units
- Measure landscape scale attributes
- Measure local scale attributes





Credit Project Total Area

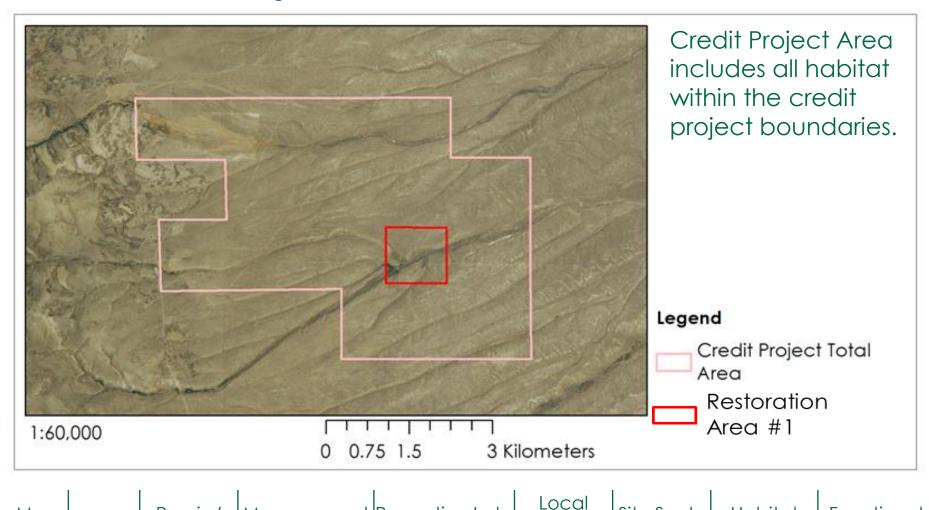
Мар

Unit

Acres

Precip/

Hydro



Management Proportion Late

Brood-rearing

Category

Site Scale

Function

Scale

Function

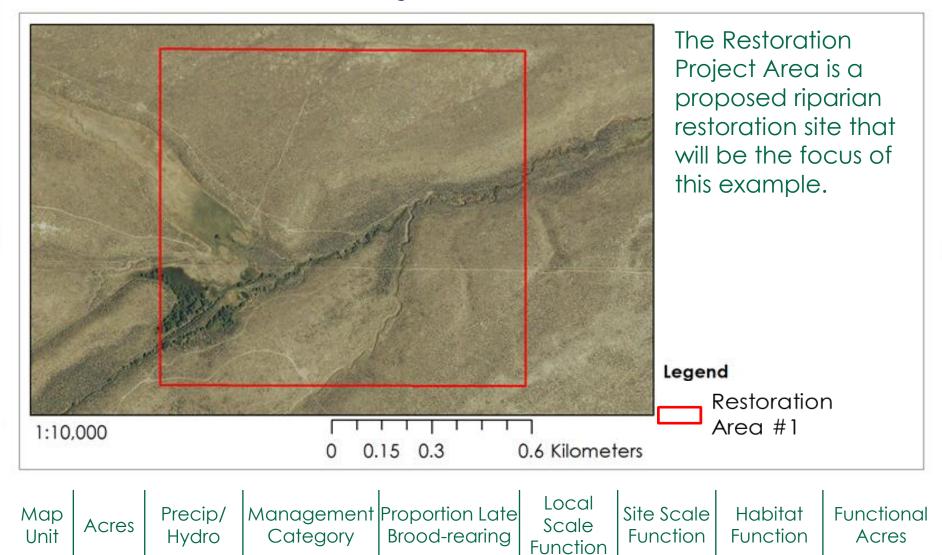
Habitat

Function

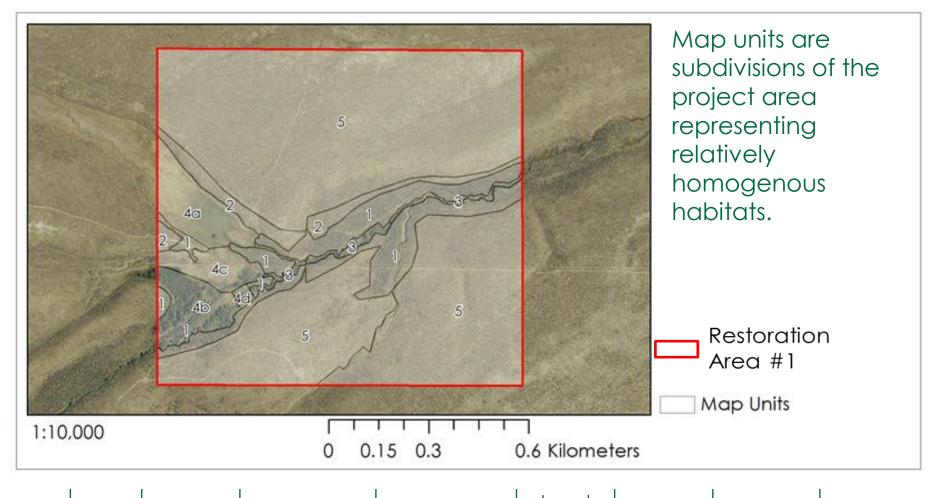
Functional

Acres

Restoration Project Area



Map Units



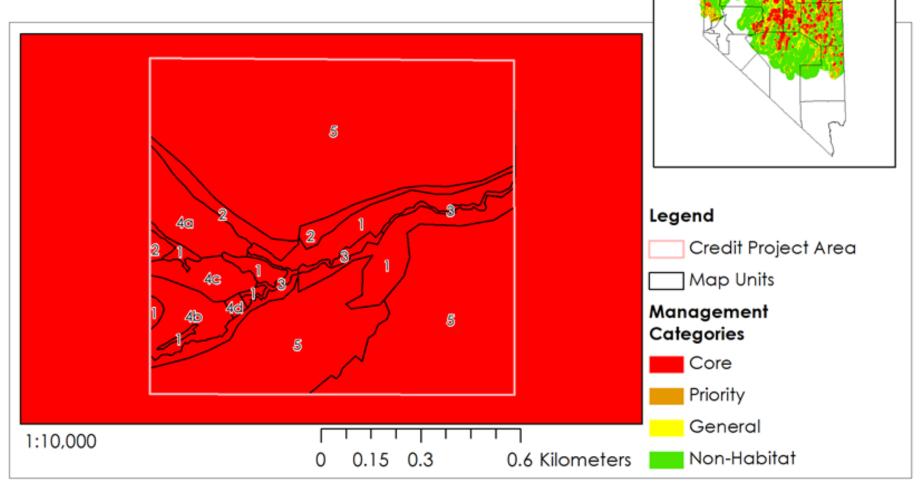
	Map Unit	Acres	Precip/ Hydro	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing	Local Scale Function	Site Scale Function	Habitat Function	Functional Acres
Ī	1	17						_	10.20

Landscape-Scale Habitat Function

- Management Category
- Limiting Seasonal Habitat

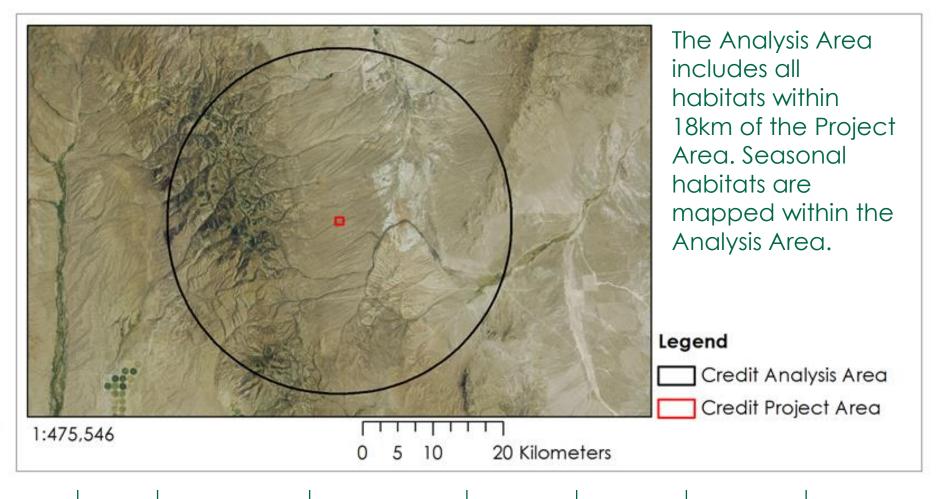


Management Category



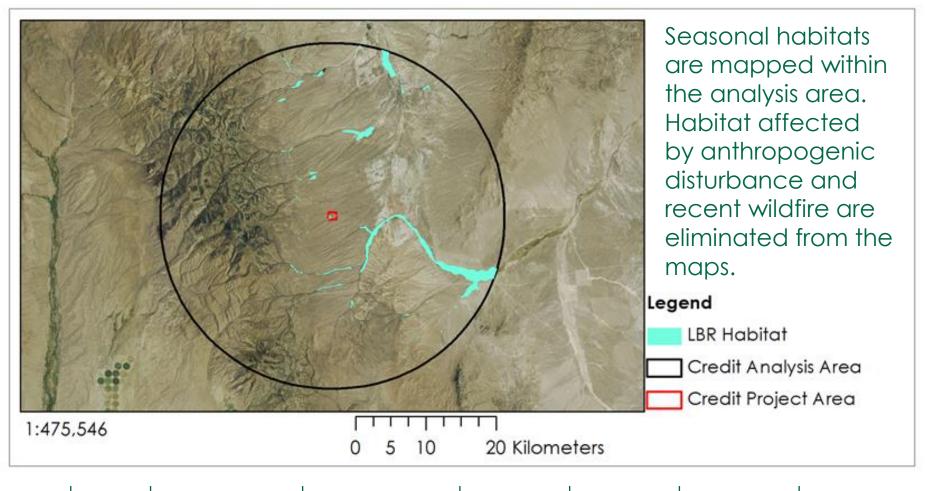
Map Unit	Acres	_	Proportion Late Brood-rearing		Functional Acres
1	17	Core			

Limiting Seasonal Habitat



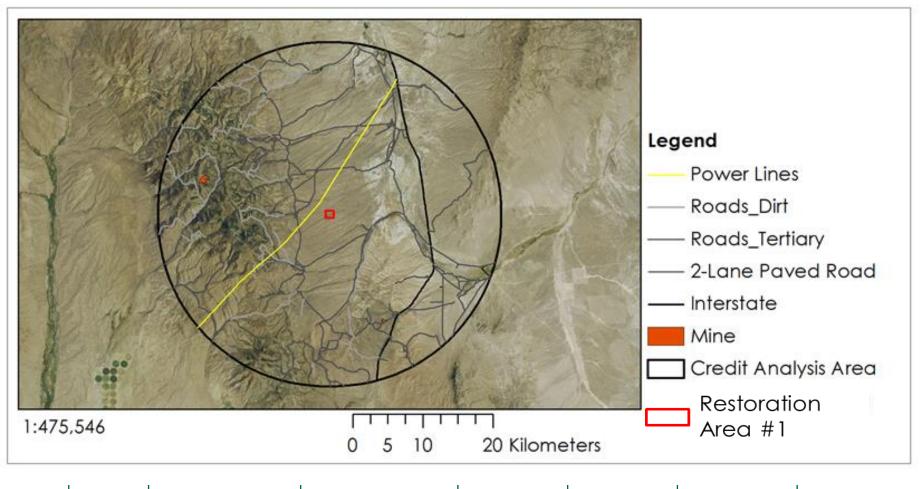
Map Unit	Acres		Proportion Late Brood-rearing	I I		Functional Acres
1	17	Core				

Limiting Habitat (LBR example)



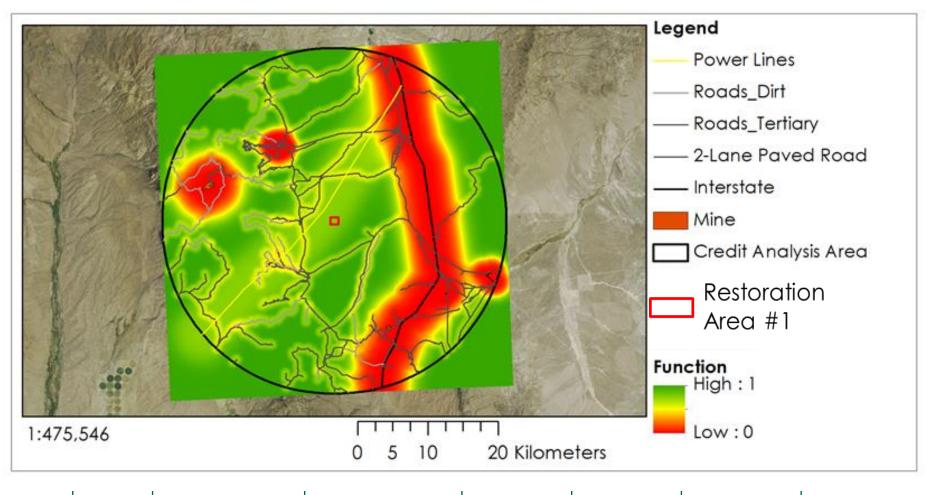
Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing		Functional Acres
1	17	Core			

Surface Disturbance



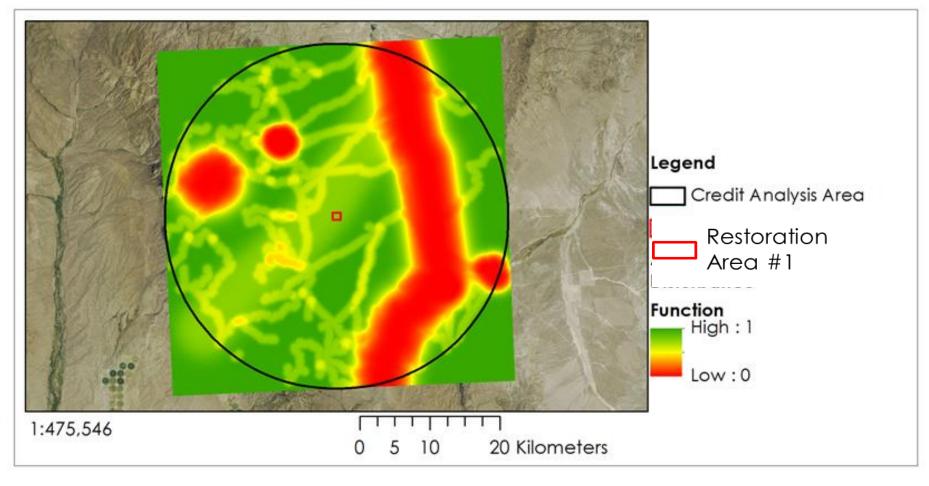
Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing	1		Functional Acres
1	17	Core				

Surface Disturbance



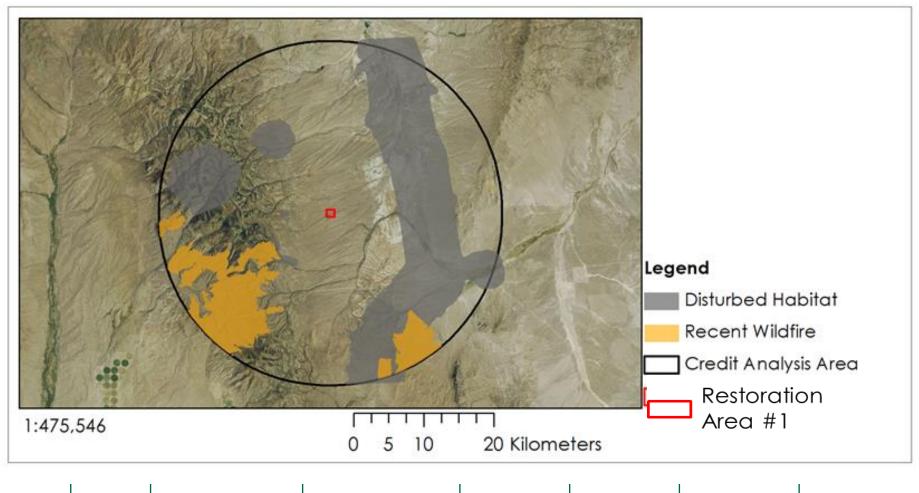
Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing	1		Functional Acres
1	17	Core				

Anthropogenic Disturbance



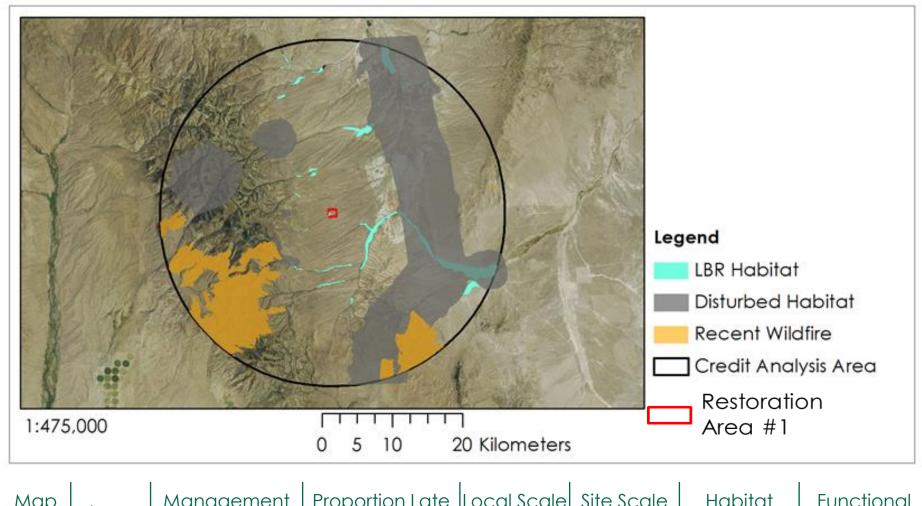
	Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing		Functional Acres
Ī	1	17	Core			

Disturbed Habitat



Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing		Functional Acres
1	17	Core			

Proportion LBR Habitat



Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing	I	Habitat Function	Functional Acres
1	17	Core	2% (Limiting)			753

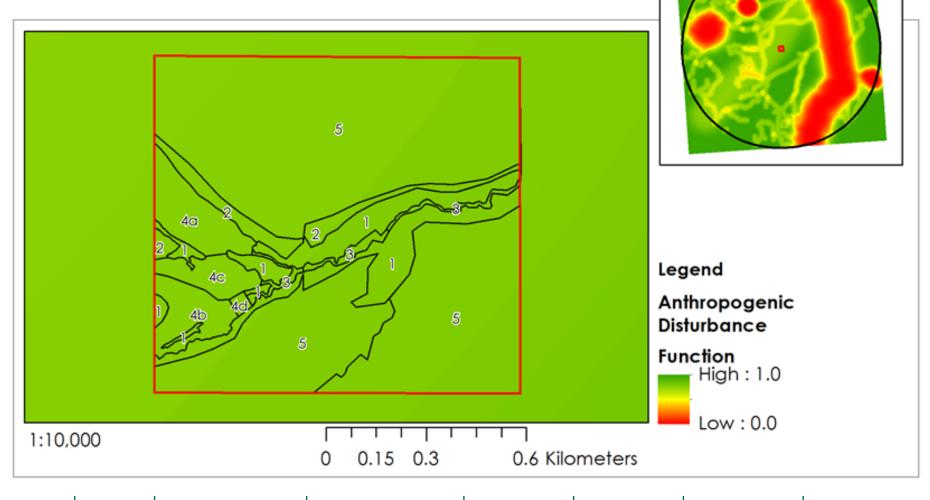
Local-Scale Habitat Function

- Anthropogenic Disturbance
- Habitat Suitability Index
- Distance to Lek (Breeding Habitat)
- Distance to LBR (Breeding Habitat)

For simplicity, local scale attributes are also assessed within the Analysis Area. This can also allow project proponents to understand how relocating or expanding a project can decrease debits or increase credits.

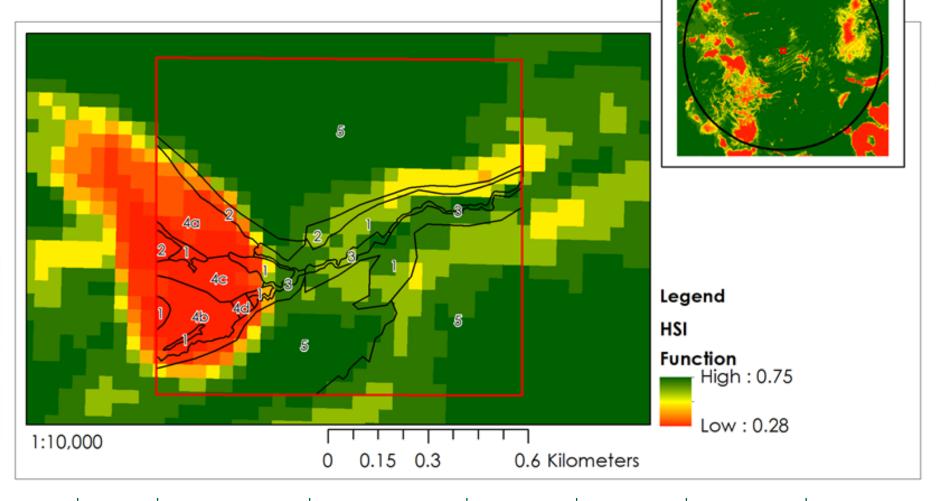


Anthropogenic Disturbance



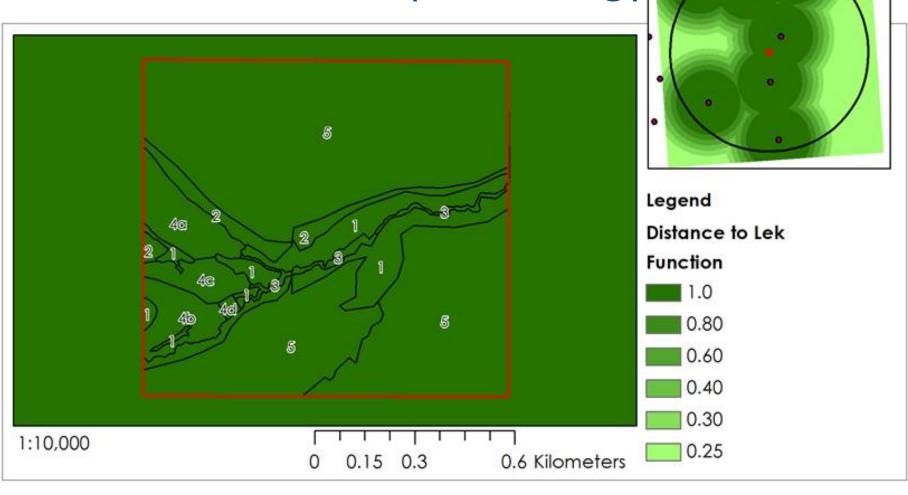
Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing	I I		Functional Acres
1	17	Core	2% (Limiting)			

Habitat Suitability Index



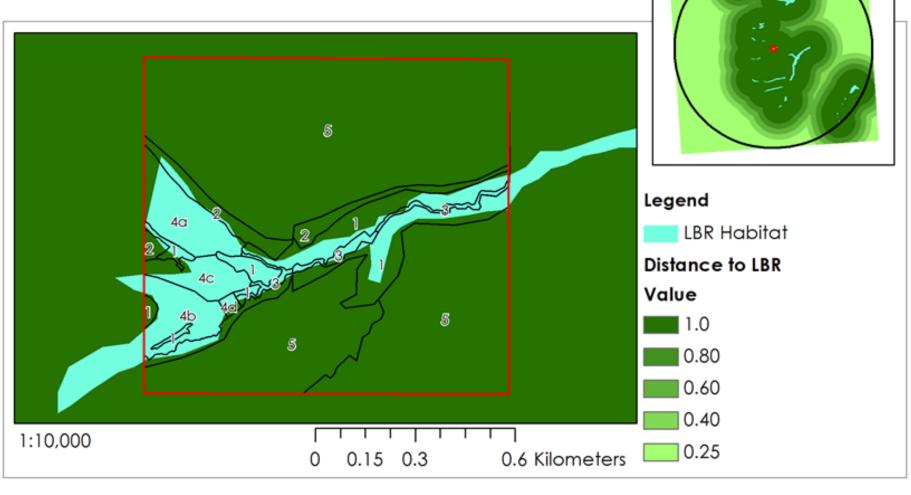
Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing	l		Functional Acres
1	17	Core	2% (Limiting)			

Distance to Lek (Breeding)



	Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing		Functional Acres
Ī	1	17	Core	2% (Limiting)		

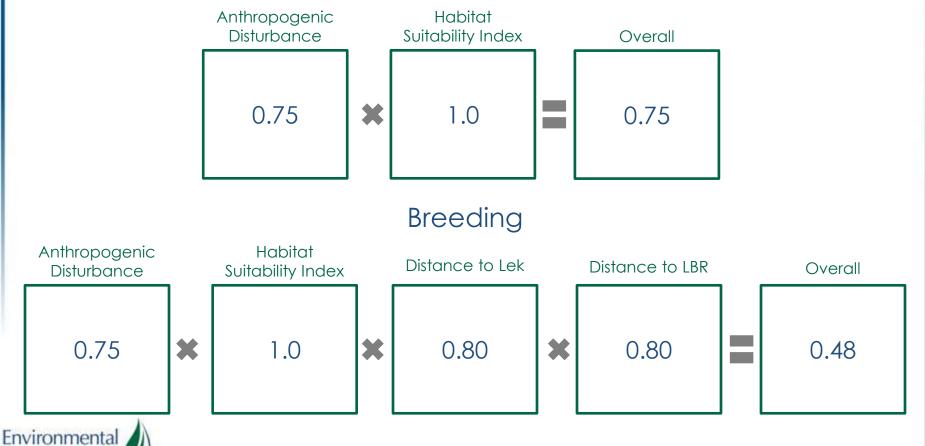
Distance to LBR (Breeding)



	Map Unit Acres Management Category		Proportion Late Brood-rearing		Functional Acres	
Ī	1	17	Core	2% (Limiting)		

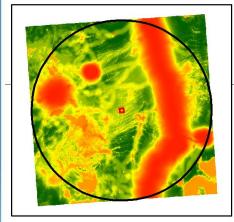
Local-Scale Habitat Function



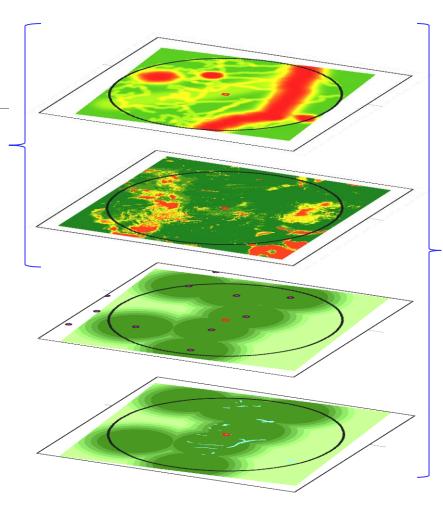


Local Scale Habitat Function

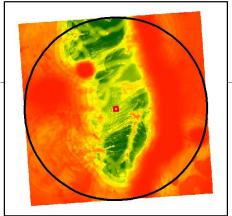
LBR & Winter



Anthropogenic
Disturbance and
the HSI are
combined for
LBR and winter
local-scale
habitat function.



Distance to Lek and Distance to LBR habitat are included for breeding localscale habitat function only.

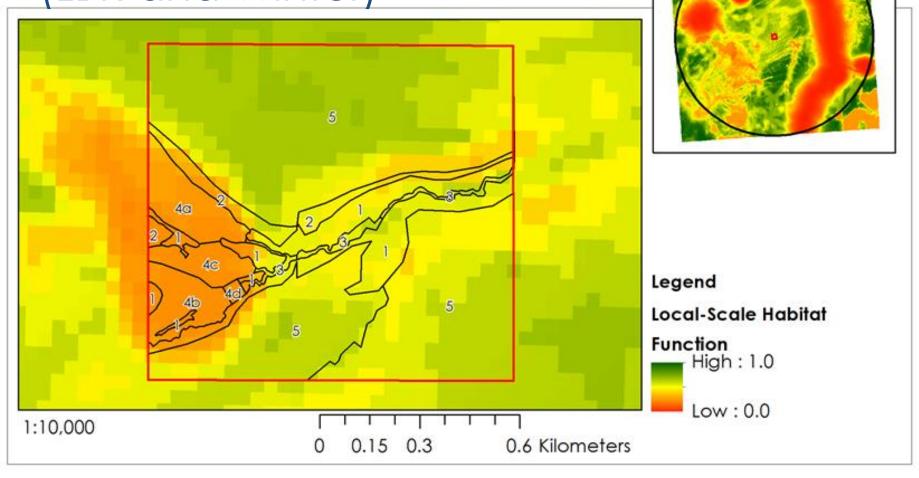


Breeding



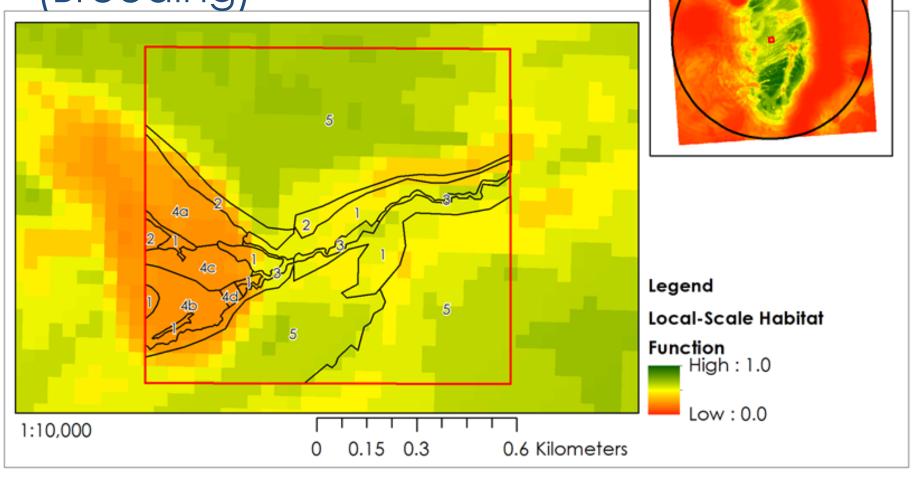
Local Scale Habitat Function = Anthropogenic Disturbance *
HSI * (Distance to Lek * Distance to LBR)

Local-Scale Habitat Function (LBR and Winter)



	· I ACTES I		Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing			Functional Acres
Ī	1	17	Core	2% (Limiting)	0.46		

Local-Scale Habitat Function (Breeding)



Map Unit Acres Management Category		•	Proportion Late Brood-rearing			Functional Acres
1	17	Core	2% (Limiting)	0.46		

2

Conduct Field Visit

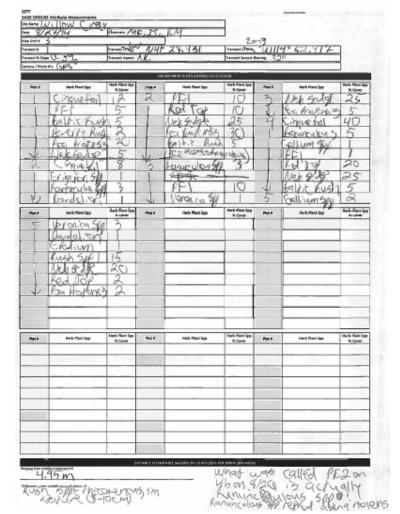
- Confirm location of any anthropogenic structures
- Collect field data using the datasheet

Collect Field Data

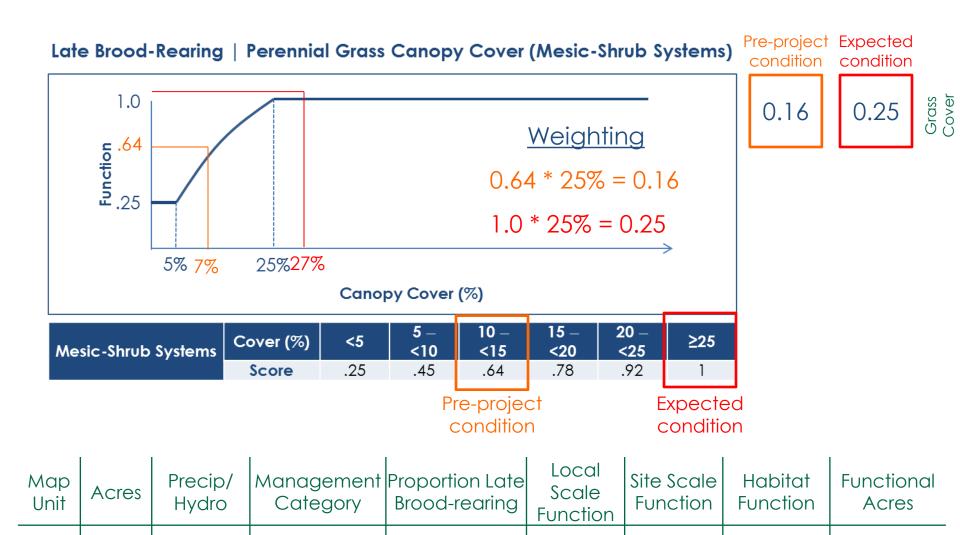
• Breeding: 4/1 – 6/15

• Late Brood-Rearing: 7/1 - 9/15









2% (Limiting)

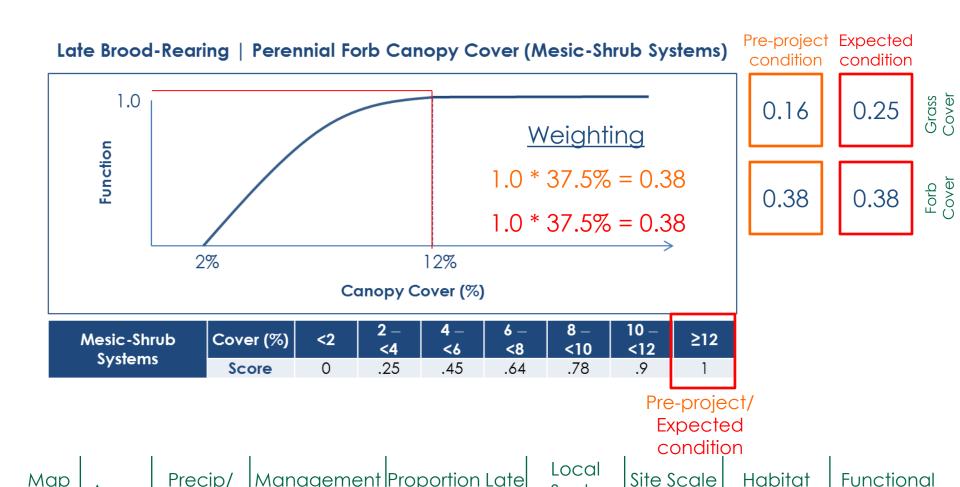
0.46

1

17

Mesic

Core



Brood-rearing

2% (Limiting)

Site Scale

Function

Scale

Function

0.46

Habitat

Function

Functional

Acres

Мар

Unit

1

Acres

17

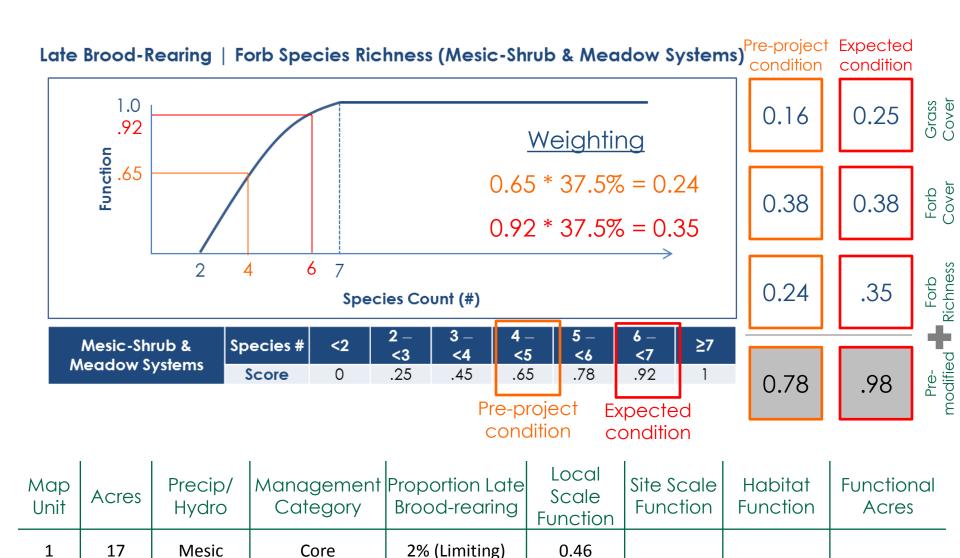
Precip/

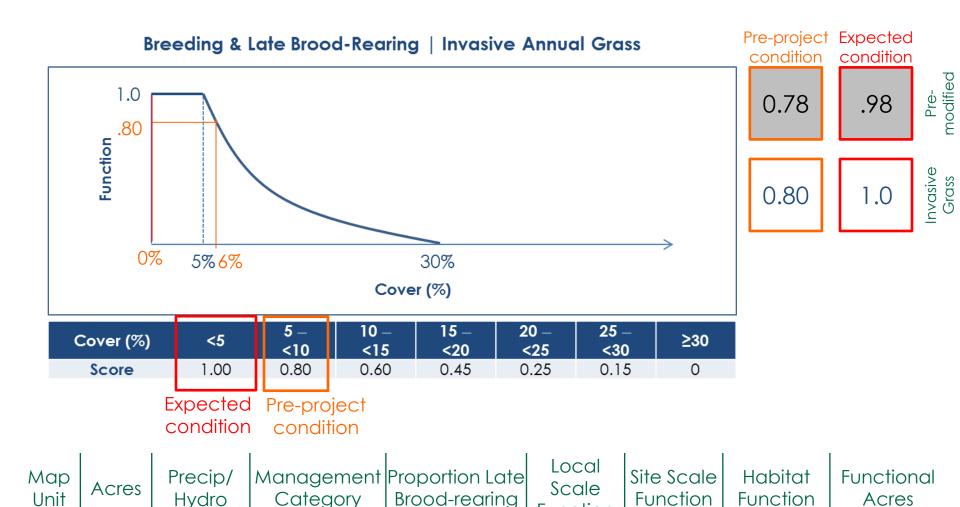
Hydro

Mesic

Category

Core





2% (Limiting)

1

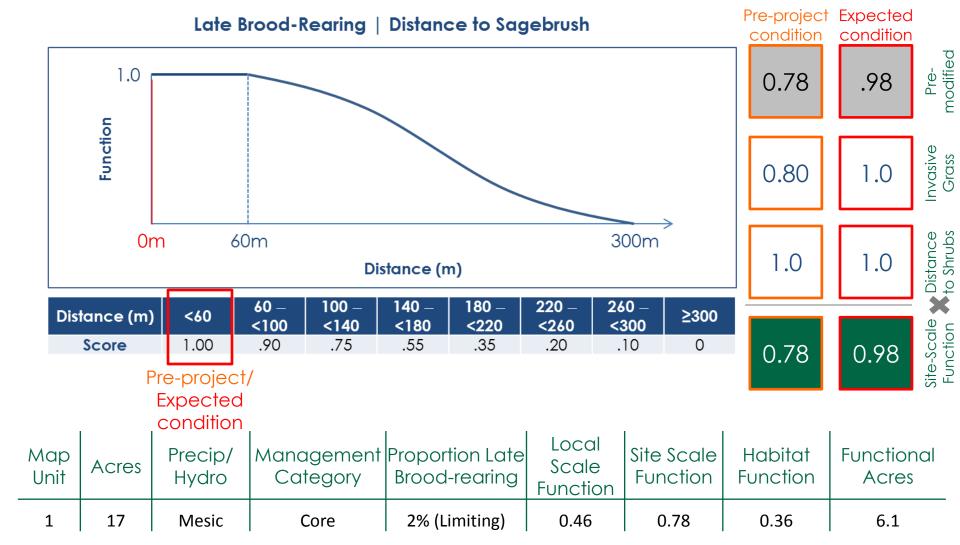
17

Mesic

Core

Function

0.55



Restoration Project Area Late Brood-Rearing Pre-Project Functional Acres

Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing	Local Scale Function	Site Scale Function	Habitat Function	Functional Acres
1	17	Core	2% (Limiting)	0.46	0.78	36%	6.1
2	6	Core	2% (Limiting)	0.42	0.64	27%	1.6
3	2	Core	2% (Limiting)	0.52	0.92	48%	1.0
4a	6	Core	2% (Limiting)	0.26	0.29	7%	0.4
4b	5	Core	2% (Limiting)	0.23	0.64	15%	0.7
4c	4	Core	2% (Limiting)	0.23	0.24	6%	0.2
4d	0.5	Core	2% (Limiting)	0.24	0.58	14%	0.1
5	112	Core	2% (Limiting)	0.56	0.11	6%	6.9



3

Calculate Credits

- Estimate post-project habitat function
- Calculate breeding, summer, and winter habitat function difference between post-project and baseline for each map unit

- Pre-project habitat function
- Post-project estimated habitat function
- Mitigation Ratio
- Reserve Account

Calculate difference between post-project habitat function and credit baseline habitat function, credits generated and credits for sale



Baseline Functional Acres

	Baseline	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Local-scale average habitat function	56%		
Site-scale average habitat function	45%		
Combined average habitat function	25%		
Functional acres	890		

Table 11: Site-scale regional standard habitat functions

WAFWA Management Zones

SEASONAL HABITAT TYPES Incentives

Environmenta

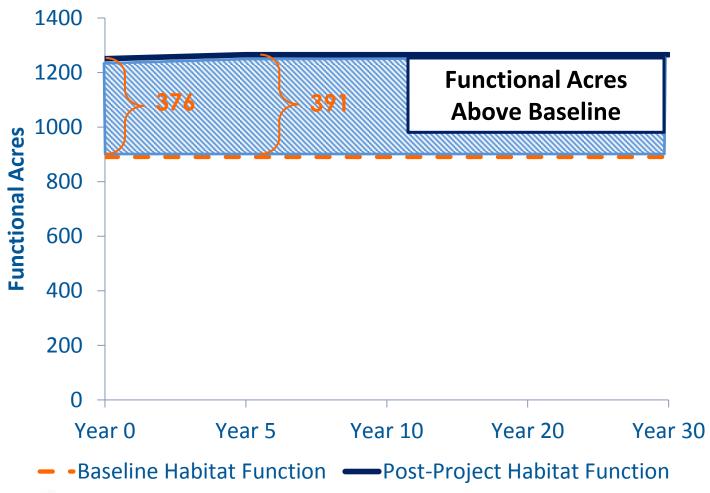
	MZ III	MZ IV	MZ V
Breeding	30%	30%	20%
Late Brood-Rearing	20%	30%	20%
Winter	65%	60%	60%

Functional Acres Above Baseline

	Baseline	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Local-scale average habitat function	56%	56%	56%
Site-scale average habitat function	45%	64%	65%
Combined average habitat function	25%	35%	36%
Functional acres	890	1,266	1,291
Functional acres above baseline		376	391



Functional Acres Above Baseline





Credit Calculation

	Pre-Project Functional Acres Above Baseline	Post-Project Addl. Functional Acres Above Pre-Project	Average Management Importance Ratio	Average Limiting Seasonal Habitat Ratio*	Average Combined Mitigation Ratio*	Credits Available in Year 1	Credits Available Post-Project
Late Brood-Rearing	8.9	3.4	1.1	44.9	46.0	404	167
Breeding	260.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	1.1	286	0
Winter	106.6	11.3	1.1	0.0	1.1	117	12
						807	167

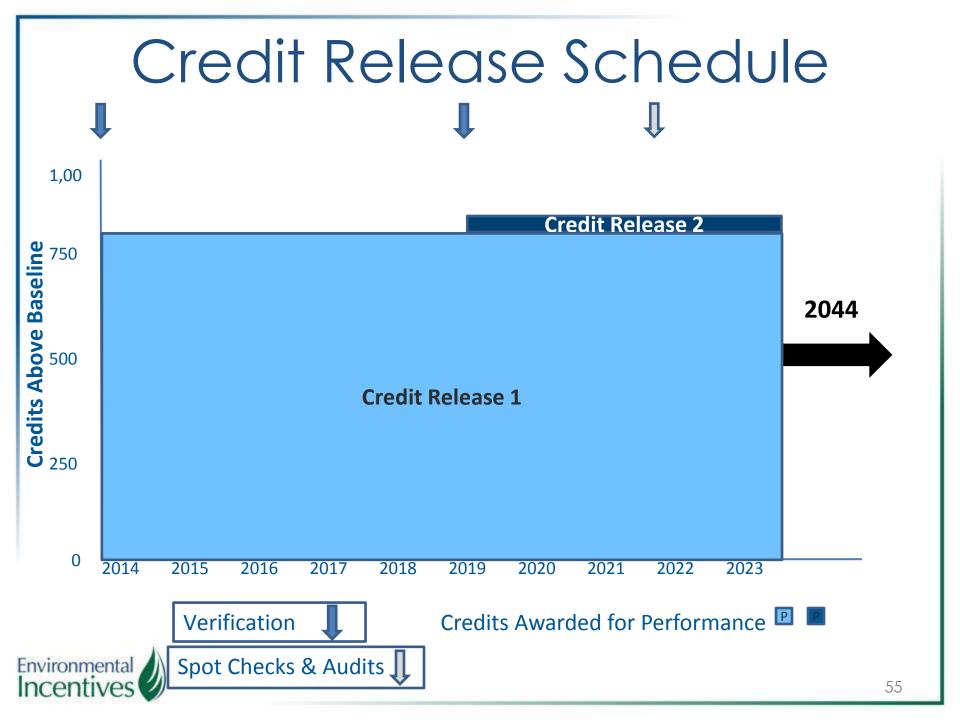
^{*}Ratios are average across map units, not a weighted-average, so functional acres above baseline multiplied by ratios do not equal credits in table, which are based on actual per map unit calculations

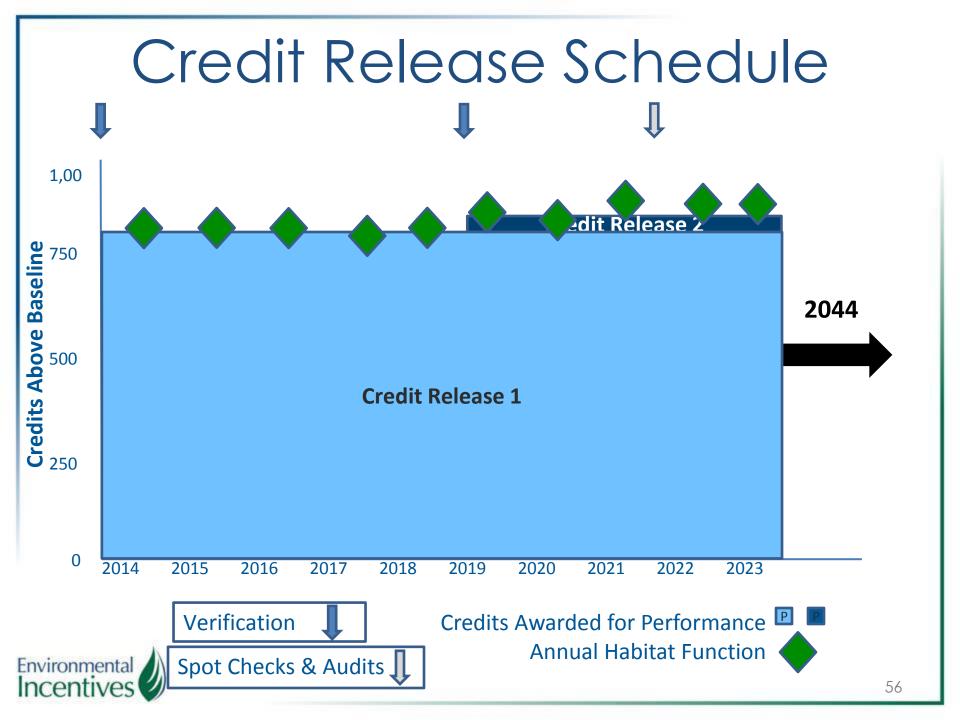


Credit Release Schedule

PERFORMANCE STANDARD ACHIEVED	CREDITS RELEASED	
Milestone 1 – Year 1	807	
Pre-project habitat function	007	
Milestone 2 – Year 5	165	
Post-project habitat function	167	
TOTAL CREDITS GENERATED	974	







Management Plan

- Project Summary & Site Characteristics
- Performance Standards, Credit
 Estimate & Credit Release Schedule
- Management, Monitoring & Verification Requirements
- Financial Assurances



Financial Assurances

- 1) Stewardship Investment Fund and contract terms in Participant Contract
- 2) Financial penalty in Participant Contract



Participant Contract

- Legal agreement between Credit Developer(s) and Administrator
- Defines relevant terms and conditions for the development of credits under the Credit System
- Defines obligations of the Credit Developer(s) and secured financial assurances
- Binds a credit sit to a Management Plan



Select & Validate Site

Implement & Calculate Credit

Verify Conditions

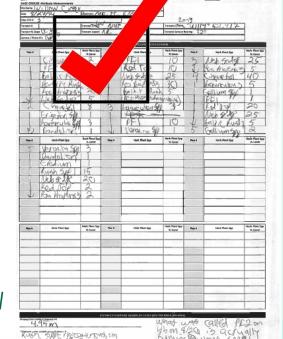
Register & Issue

Track & Transfer

Conduct annual self-monitoring

Select verifier & conduct third-party

verification





See page 43 of the Manual for additional information on Credit Site Verification

Third-Party Verification Procurement and Schedule



<u>Schedule</u>

- Prior to a release of credits
- At least every 5 years
- Potential spot check/audit



Select & Validate Site

Implement & Calculate Benefit

Verify Conditions

Register & Issue

Track & Transfer

- Create a registry account
- Register project
- Credits are issued based on credit release schedule



Select & Validate Site

Implement & Calculate Benefit

Verify Conditions

Register & Issue

Track & Transfer

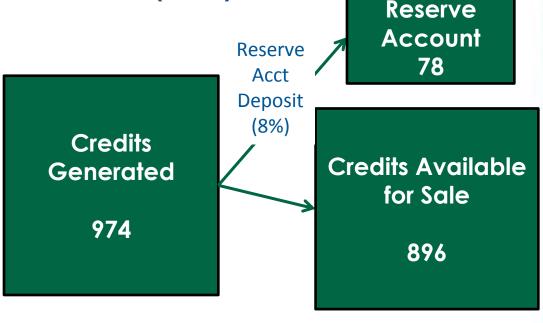
- Transfer credits to the reserve account
- Sell and transfer credits
- Report accomplishments



Reserve Account Contribution

- Base contribution (4%)
- Resistance & resilience (1%)

Competing land uses (3%)





Credit Project Summary

Acres Protected: 3,460

Difference between Post-Project and Baseline Habitat Function: 391

Credits Generated: 974

Credits for Sale: 896

Duration: 30



Credit Project Scenarios

	Current (Good)	Very Good
Acres Protected	3,460	3,460
Post-Project Functional Acres Above Baseline	391	1,099
Credits Generated	974	4,192
Credits for Sale	896	4,024

Very Good

- Very high local-scale habitat function
- Very high site-scale habitat function
- 1% limiting seasonal habitat for LBR
- 4% reserve account contribution



Example Transaction Sequence

#1 Credit Generation

#2 Credit Acquisition

Implement Select & Track & Verify Register & Acquire Indicate Determine & Calculate Validate **Conditions** Issue Credits Credit Need Interest Transfer Site Credit



Debit Project Overview

- Project is on BLM land and consists of a geothermal power plant (71 acre footprint) and 23.7 Km transmission line (road access existed prior to the project)
- Avoidance and minimization already addressed

Plan and transmission line will be removed in

20 years





Track & Transfer

Acquire Credits

Determine Credit Need

Indicate Interest

- Become aware of opportunity or requirement to participate
- Contact Administrator and provide basic information
- Receive list of Technical Support Providers to assist



Acquire Credits

Determine Credit Need

Indicate Interest

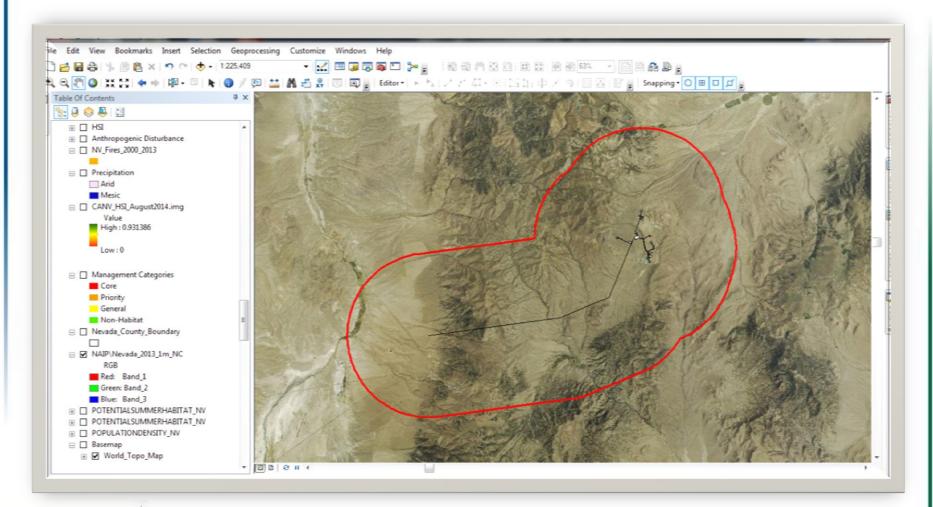
- Develop project plan
- Calculate estimated debits and credit obligation
- Establish Verification Contract
- Conduct pre-project third-party verification
- Submit documentation to Administrator



1

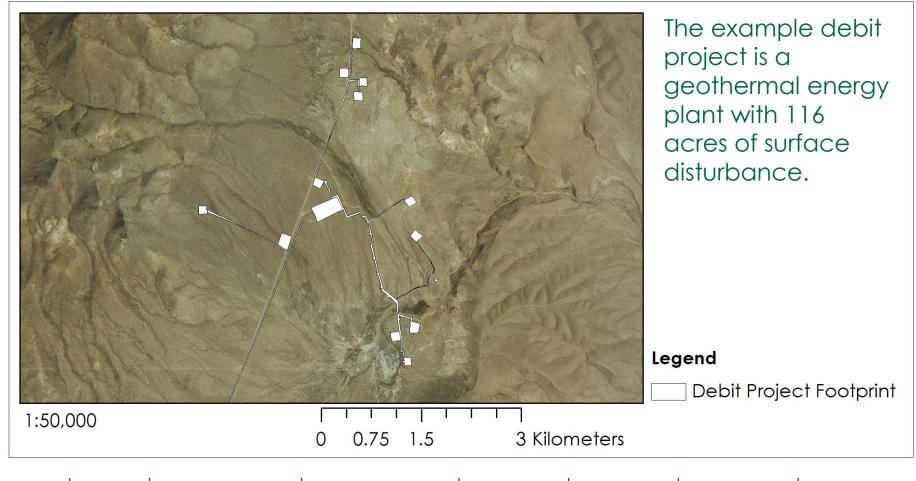
Conduct Pre-Field Visit Desktop Analysis

- Digitize the project area & map units
- Measure landscape scale attributes
- Measure local scale attributes



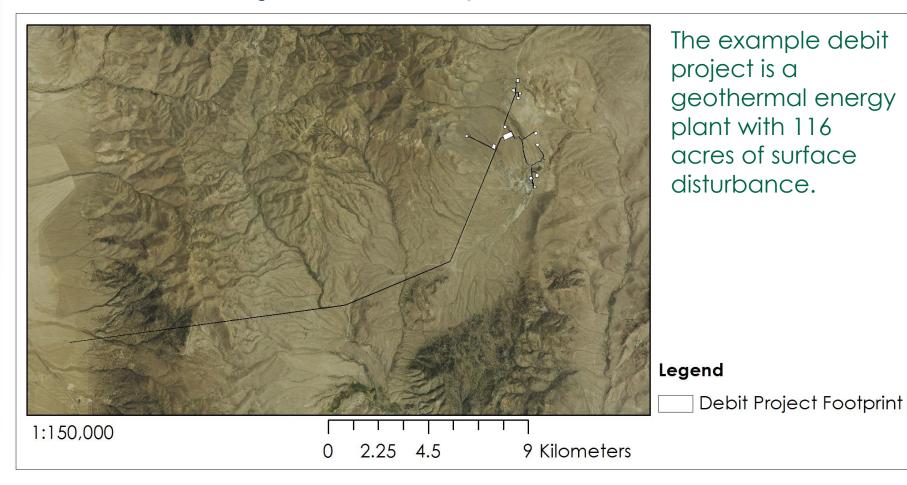


Debit Project Footprint



٨	√ap Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing		Functional Acres
	1	45				

Debit Project Footprint



Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing		Functional Acres
1	45				

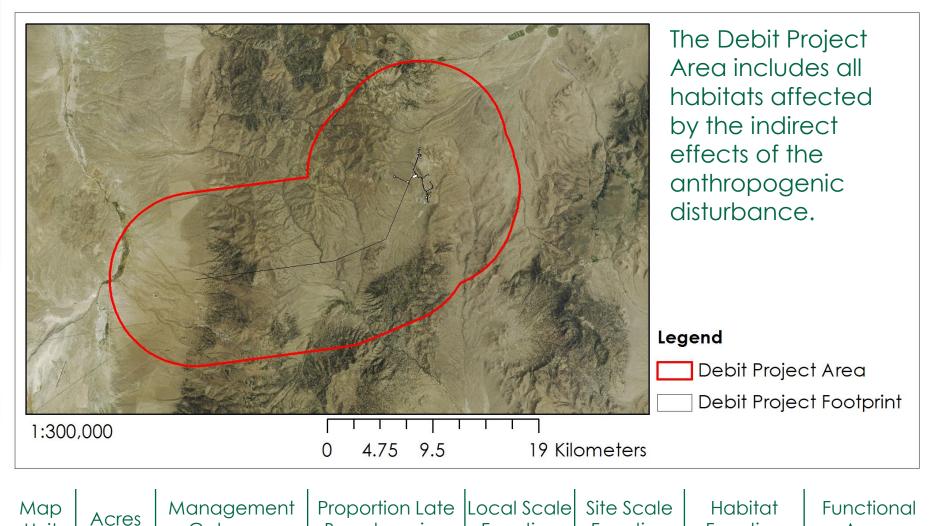
Debit Project Area

Category

Unit

1

45



Function

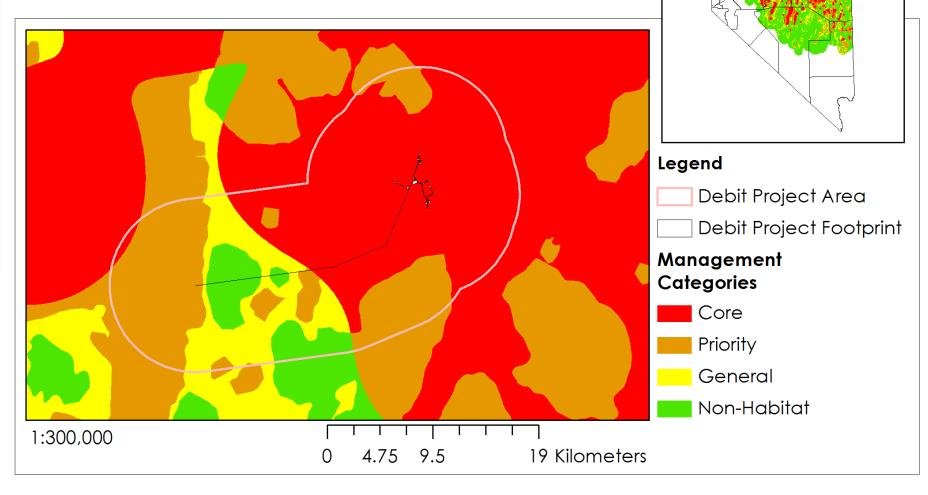
Function

Function

Acres

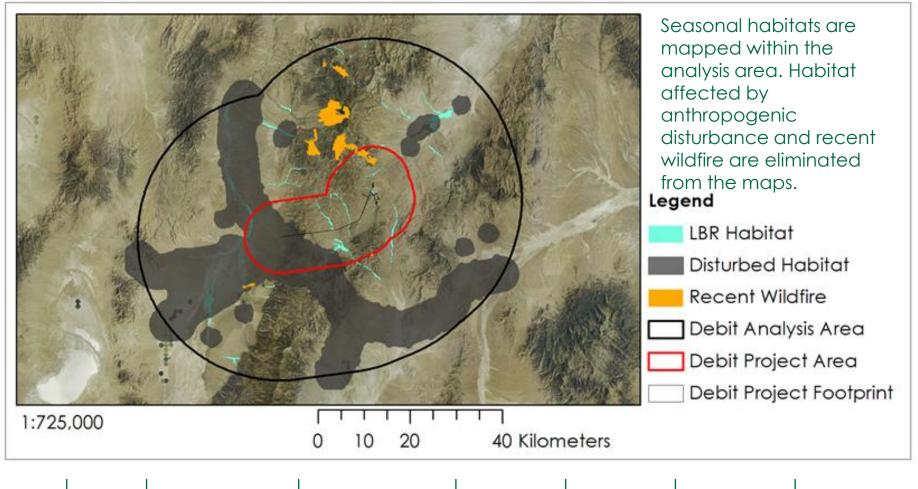
Brood-rearing

Management Category



	Map Unit	Acres	. •	Proportion Late Brood-rearing		l	Functional Acres
Ī	1	45	Core				

Proportion LBR Habitat



Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing	l		Functional Acres
1	45	Core	4%			

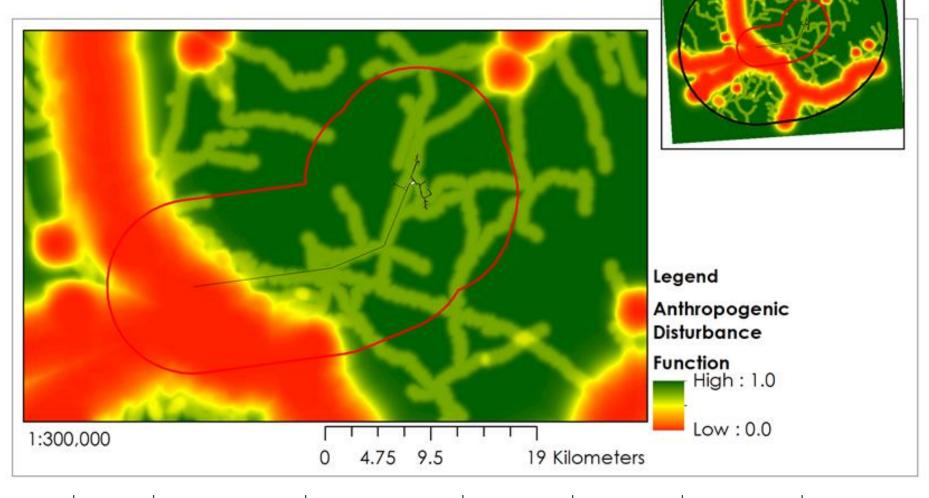
Local-Scale Habitat Function

- Anthropogenic Disturbance
- Habitat Suitability Index
- Distance to Lek (Breeding Habitat)
- Distance to LBR (Breeding Habitat)

For simplicity, local scale attributes are also assessed within the Analysis Area. This can also allow project proponents to understand how relocating or expanding a project can decrease debits or increase credits.

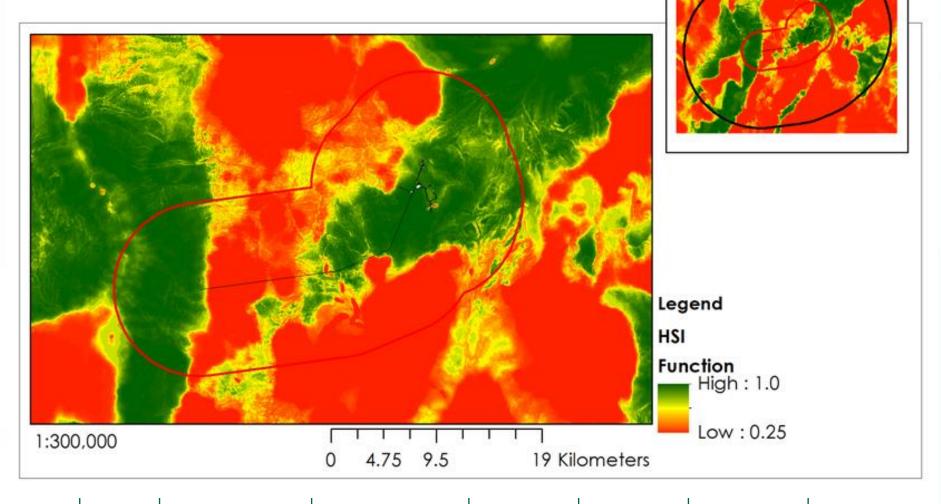


Anthropogenic Disturbance



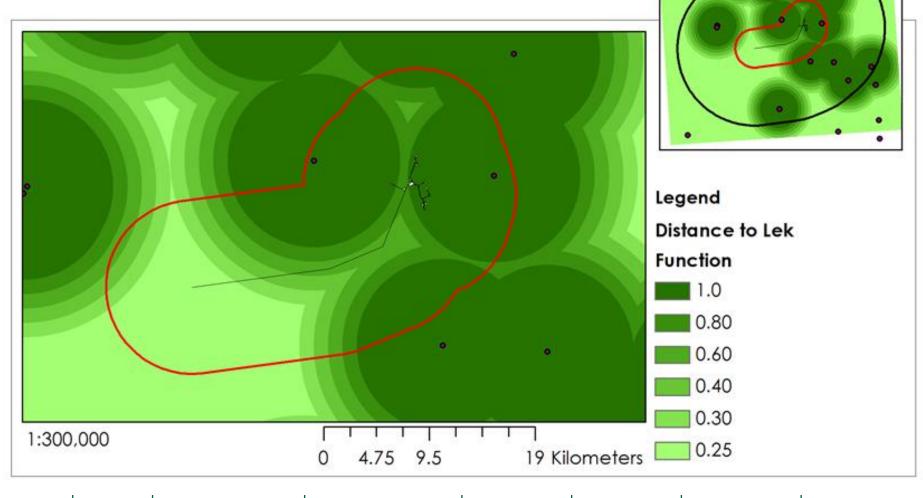
	Map Unit	Acres	_	Proportion Late Brood-rearing		Functional Acres
Ī	1	45	Core	4%		

Habitat Suitability Index



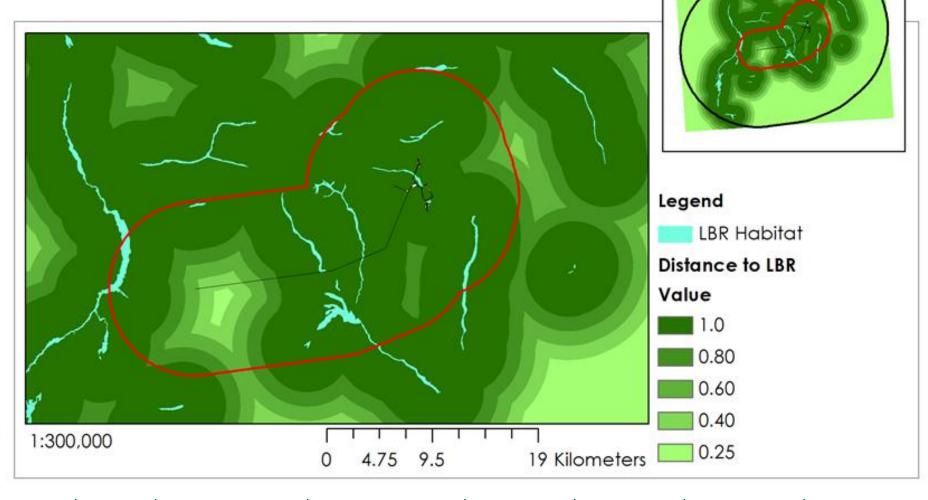
Map Unit	Acres	_	Proportion Late Brood-rearing		Functional Acres
1	45	Core	4%		

Distance to Lek (Breeding)



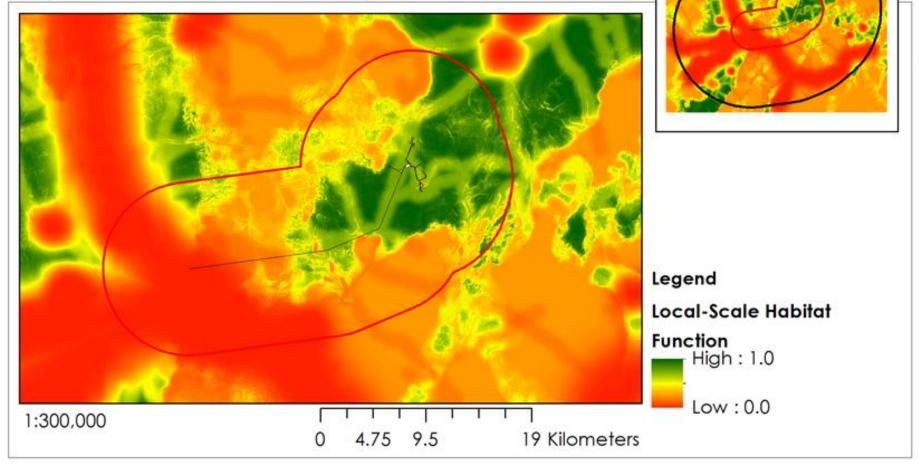
Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing		Functional Acres
1	45	Core	4%		

Distance to LBR (Breeding)



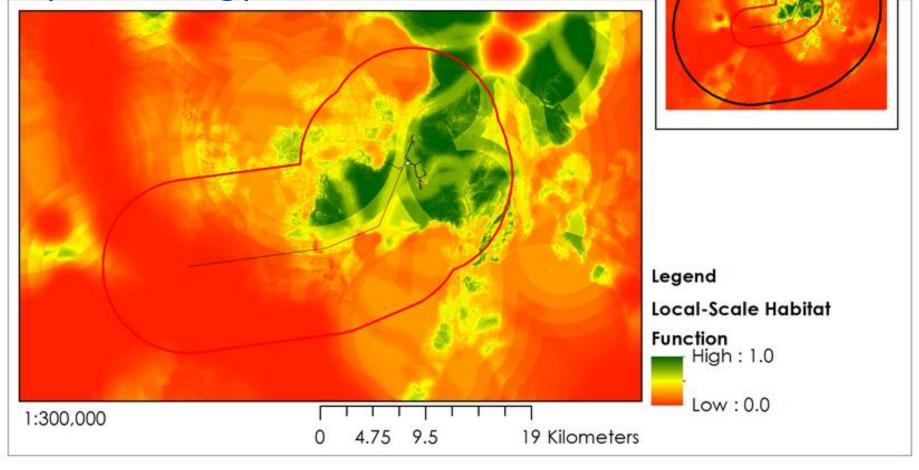
	Map Unit	Acres	_	Proportion Late Brood-rearing		Functional Acres
Ī	1	45	Core	4%		

Local-Scale Habitat Function (LBR and Winter)



Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing			Functional Acres
1	45	Core	4%	0.39		

Local-Scale Habitat Function (Breeding)



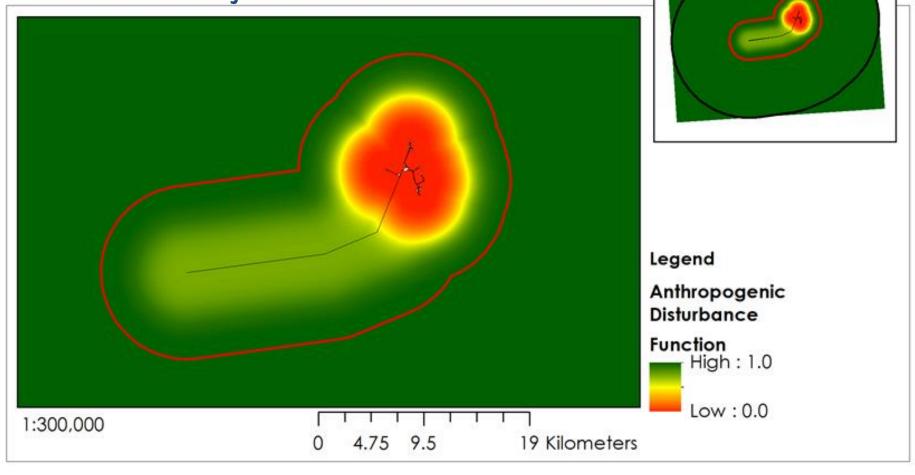
	Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing			Functional Acres
•	1	45	Core	4%	0.33		

Post-Project Analysis

- Anthropogenic Disturbance
- Limiting Seasonal Habitat
- Local-Scale Habitat Function

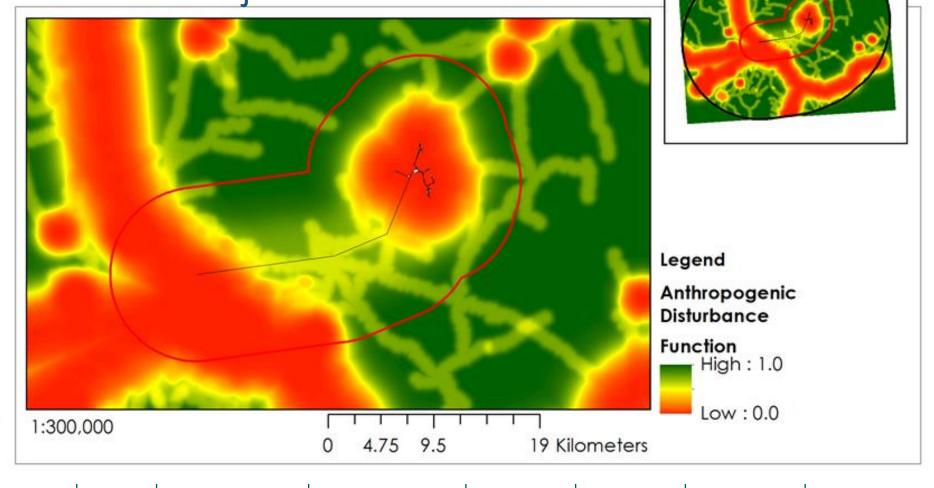


Anthropogenic Disturbance – Post Project



	Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing			Functional Acres
•	1	45	Core	4%	0.39		

Anthropogenic Disturbance – Post Project



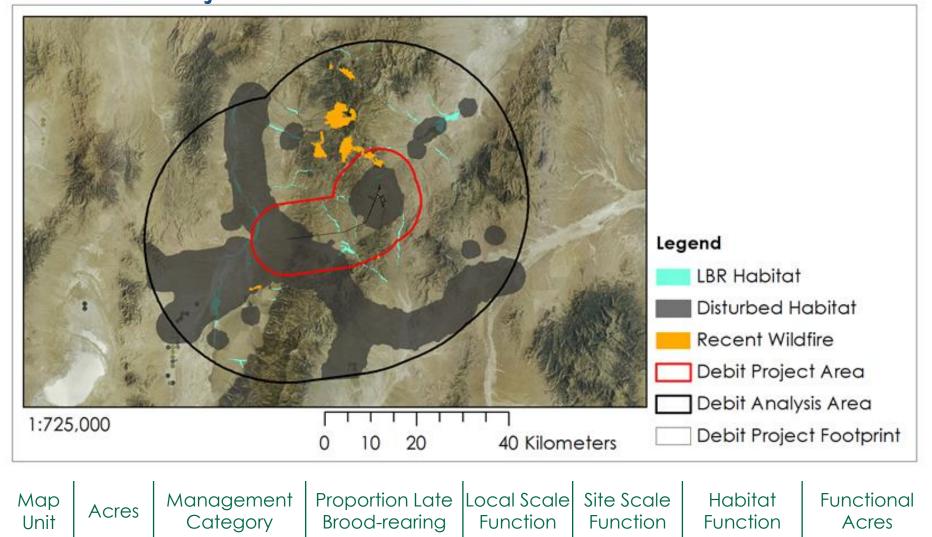
Map Unit	Acres	•	Proportion Late Brood-rearing			Functional Acres
1	45	Core	4%	0.39		

Limiting Seasonal Habitat– Post Project

1

45

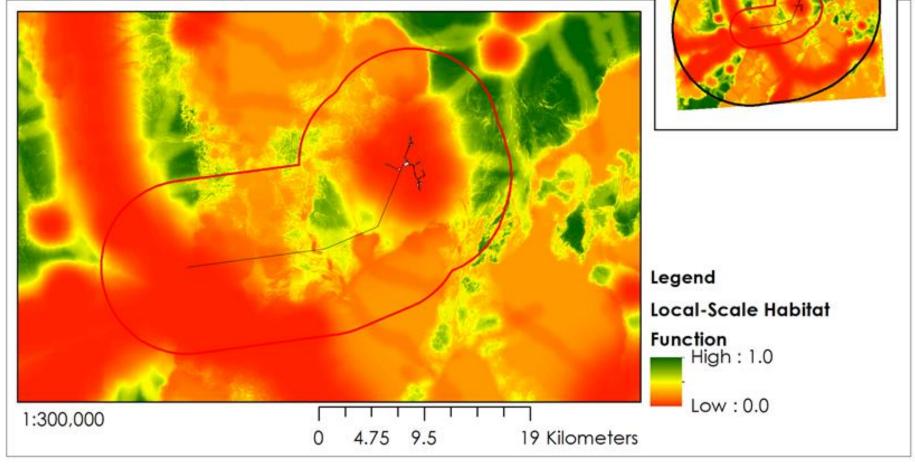
Core



0.39

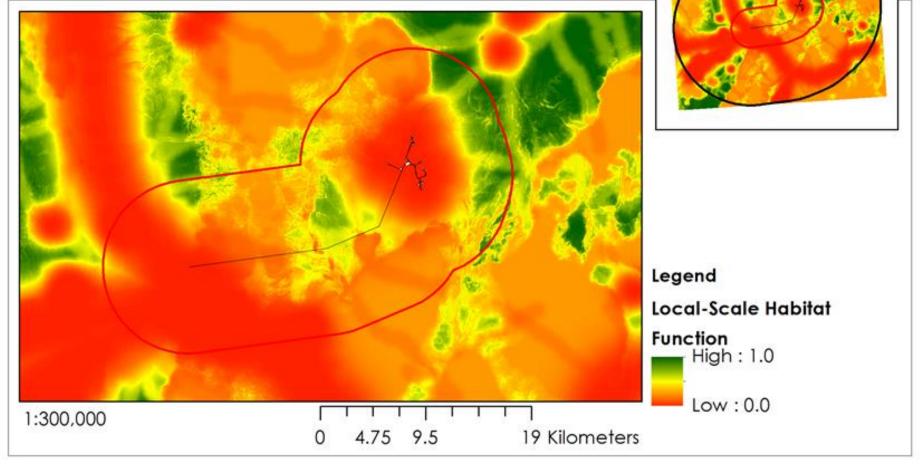
3% (Limiting)

Local-Scale Habitat Function (Breeding) - Post



Map Unit	Acres	Management Category	Proportion Late Brood-rearing			Functional Acres
1	17	Core	3% (Limiting)	0.24		13

Local-Scale Habitat Function (LBR and Winter) – Post



Map Unit	Acres		Proportion Late Brood-rearing			Functional Acres
1	17	Core	3% (Limiting)	0.20		

2

Conduct Field Visits

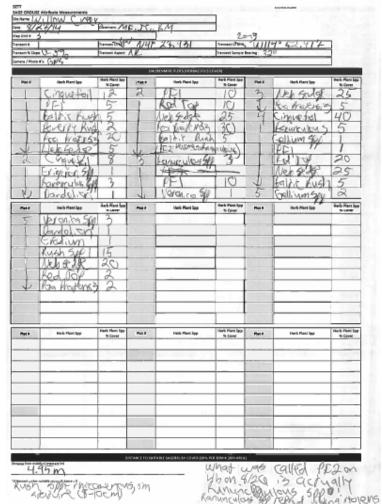
- Confirm location of any anthropogenic structures
- Collect field data using the datasheet

Collect Field Data

• Breeding: 4/1 – 6/15

• Late Brood-Rearing: 7/1 – 9/15







Calculate Debits

- Estimate post-project habitat function
- Calculate breeding, summer, and winter habitat function difference between post-project and baseline for each map unit

- Pre-project habitat function
- Post-project estimated habitat function
- Mitigation Ratio
- Proximity Ratio

Calculate difference between post-project habitat function and debit baseline habitat function, debits generated and credit obligation

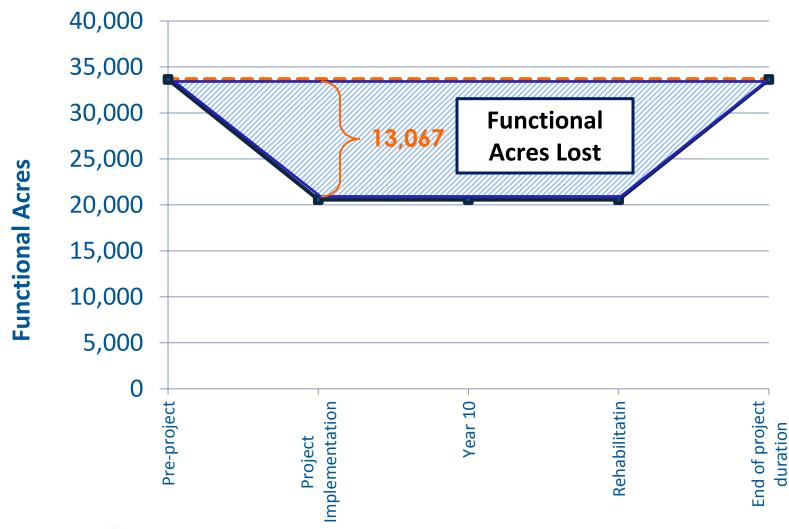


Functional Acre Loss

	Pre-Project	Post-Project
Combined local & site-scale average habitat function	36%	22%
Functional acres	33,632	20,565
	Functional Acres Loss	13,067



Functional Acres Impacted





Debit Calculation

	Functional Acres Loss	Average Management Importance Ratio	Average Limiting Seasonal Habitat Ratio	Average Combined Mitigation Ratio	Debits Generated
Late Brood-Rearing	557	1.5	0.0	1.5	835
Breeding	5,550	1.5	0.0	1.5	8,325
Winter	6,960	1.5	0.0	1.5	10,440
	13,067				19,600



Credit Obligation Calculation

	Debits Generated	Proximity Ratio	Credit Obligation
Late Brood-Rearing	835	1.25	1,044
Breeding	8,325	1.25	10,406
Winter	10,440	1.25	13,051
	19,600		24,500



Debit Project Summary

Acres of Direct Impact: 116

Acres of Indirect Impact: 92,804

Functional Acre Loss: 13,067

Debits: 19,600

Credit Obligation: 24,500

Duration: 30



Debit Project Scenarios

	Very Bad	Current (Moderate)	Good
Acres of Direct Impact	116	116	116
Acres of Indirect Impact	92,804	92,804	92,804
Functional Acre Lost	23,628	13,067	5,104
Debits	121,499	19,600	5,104
Credit Obligation	182,248	24,500	5,104

Very Bad

- Core management category
- Very high habitat function
- 1% limiting seasonal habitat for LBR
- Offset outside of WAFWA Management Zone

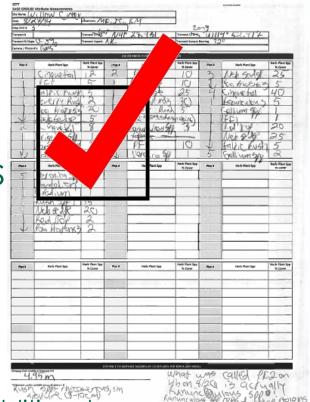
Very Good

- General management category
- Low habitat function
- No limiting seasonal habitat
- Offset within PMU



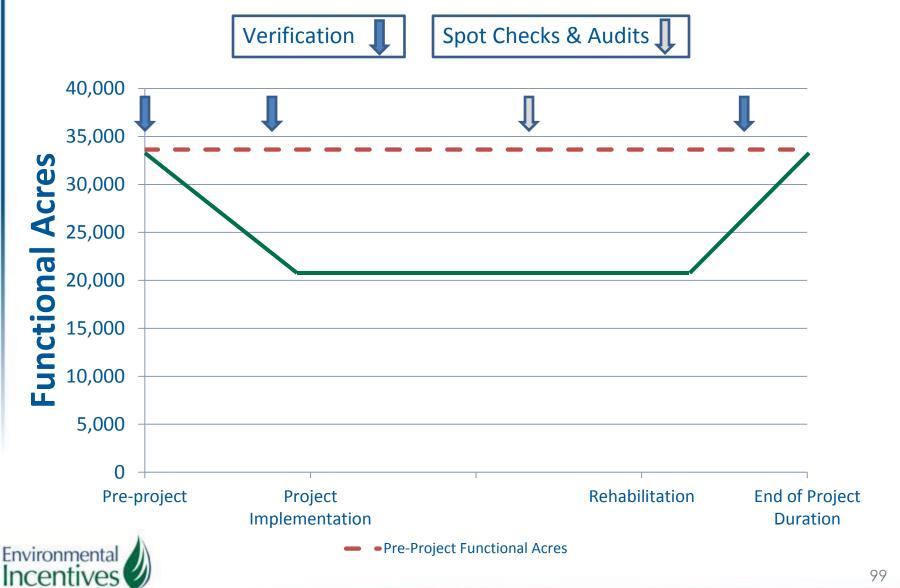
Debit Verification

- Third-party verification
 - Before debit project begins
 - During implementation
 - When debits end/decrease
 - Potential spot checks/audits





Debit Verification



Track & Transfer

Acquire Credits

Determine Credit Need Indicate Interest

- Purchase credits
- Create registry account



Investment Strategy

- Buyer is provided Credit Developers willing to provided quantity of credits required by Administrator
- Buyer reaches price and payment terms with each individual Credit Developer



Track & Transfer

Acquire Credits

Determine Credit Need

Indicate Interest

- Conduct post-project third-party verification
- Report accomplishments

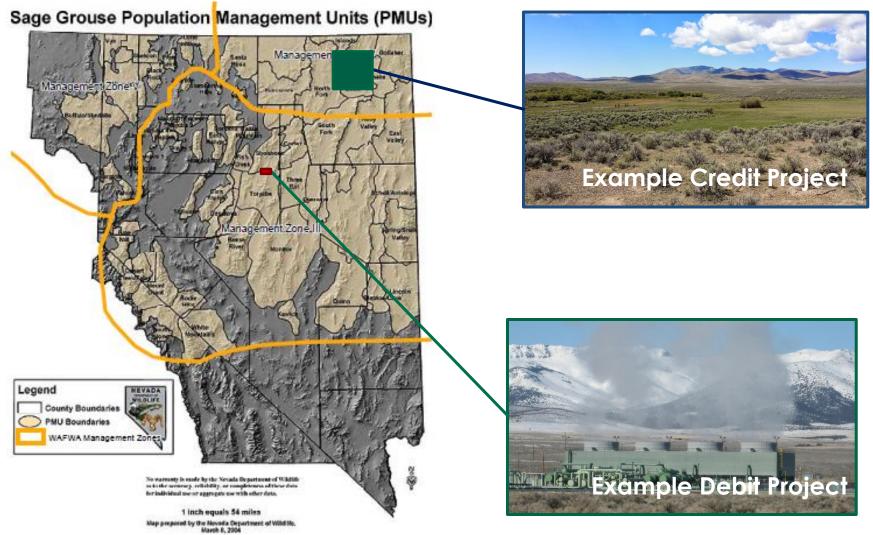


Other Debit Project Considerations

Regulatory Assurances



Conservation Area to Direct Impact Area





Report Accomplishments

